

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Original): A circulating body driven with its surface being circulated along a fixed route, the circulating body comprising:

a base material having a tubular outside peripheral surface; and

a surface layer covering the outside peripheral surface of the base material and having a surface static friction coefficient of 0.06 or less with common paper at 100°C.

Claim 2 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 1, wherein the surface layer comprising a fluororesin containing an inorganic fine particle.

Claim 3 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 2, wherein the surface layer containing the inorganic fine particle in an amount of 1 mass% or more and 30 mass% or less based on 100 mass parts of the fluororesin.

Claim 4 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 2, wherein the surface layer contains, as the inorganic fine particle, at least one fine particle selected from the group consisting of a metal oxide fine particle, a mineral silicate fine particle and a metal nitride fine particle.

Claim 5 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 2, wherein the surface layer contains, as the inorganic fine particle, at least one fine particle selected from the group consisting of a BaSO₄ fine particle, a titanium oxide fine particle, a zeolite fine particle, a mica fine particle and a boron nitride fine particle.

Claim 6 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 2, wherein the surface layer containing an inorganic fine particle having an average particle diameter of $0.1\mu\text{m}$ or more and $15\mu\text{m}$ or less.

Claim 7 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 2, wherein the surface layer containing an inorganic fine particle which has an average particle diameter of $0.1\mu\text{m}$ or more and $15\mu\text{m}$ or less and contains a particle having a particle diameter of $15\mu\text{m}$ or more in an amount of 25 mass% or less.

Claim 8 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 2, wherein the surface layer containing a conductive fine particle in an amount of 1 mass part or more and 10 mass parts or less based on 100 mass parts of the fluororesin.

Claim 9 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 2, wherein the surface layer containing a copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene and perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether as the fluororesin.

Claim 10 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 9, wherein the surface layer containing, as the fluororesin, a composition of plural type of particles differing in the particle diameter of the copolymers wherein a second particle having an average particle diameter of $3\mu\text{m}$ or more and $30\mu\text{m}$ or less is compounded in an amount of 5 mass parts or more and 70 mass parts or less based on 100 mass parts of a first particle having an average particle diameter of $1\mu\text{m}$ or less.

Claim 11 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 10, wherein the surface layer uses, as the first particle, a particle having a melt viscosity of 3.5×10^4 Pa · s or less at 380°C and as the second particle, a particle having a melt viscosity of 1.5×10^4 Pa · s or less at 380°C.

Claim 12 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 10, wherein the surface layer uses, as both the first particle and the second particle, a particle having a melt viscosity of 1.5×10^4 Pa · s or less at 380°C.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A circulating body according to Claim 1, wherein the surface layer has a surface roughness Ra of 3μm or less [[:]] .

Claim 14 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 1, wherein the surface layer has a surface gloss of 15 or more and 60 or less as the value measured by a 75° micro-gloss meter (BYK Gardner).

Claim 15 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 1, wherein the surface layer has a filtered wave center line waviness of 0.9μm or less in the condition of 0.25 mm cutoff.

Claim 16 (Original): A circulating body according to Claim 1, wherein the base material has a roll-like shape, or a seamless belt-like shape.

Claim 17 (Original): A fixing device comprising:

a rotating roll-like fixing member;

a fixing tubular body rotating along with the rotation the fixing member in contact with the fixing member;

a press member that is disposed inside of the fixing tubular body and presses this fixing tubular body against the fixing member to form a nip zone between the fixing tubular body and the fixing member; and

a heating source that heats the nip zone; to fix an unfixed toner image to a recording medium by holding the recording medium carrying the unfixed toner image in the nip zone,

wherein the fixing tubular body is provided with a seamless belt-like base material and a surface layer covering the outside peripheral surface of the base material and having a surface static friction coefficient of 0.06 or less with common paper at 100°C.

Claim 18 (Original): A fixing device according to Claim 17, wherein the time required for a point on the recording medium to pass through the nip zone is 0.020 seconds or more.